

TEACHER'S GUIDE

GRADES PREK-K



EPISODE
Follow Those Footprints

THE BIG IDEA:
Animals and Their Footprints



ADVENTURES IN READING WITH NATURE CAT

Teacher's Guide 🌱 PreK / K



The Big Idea:

Animal and Their Footprints

Content Objectives:

Students will review what they've learned about animals and their footprints from Nature Cat episode: Follow Those Footprints. Photographs of animals are paired with Nature Cat pictures depicting the same creatures to allow readers to find the similarities and differences. Students will strengthen their literary skills and establish a direct relationship between visuals and the written word in the reader.

Time:

All activities should take 30-40 minutes.

Materials:

You can find these media materials and more in the Nature Cat Collection at pbslearningmedia.org.

- Nature Cat 11-minute segment: Follow Those Footprints
- Class set Nature Cat Readers



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Procedures:

Part I: Give students access to the materials

- Watch the video with your students.
- Instruct students to open their Nature Cat readers. Read the opening lines, and then say, "Look at each picture and its word." Give them time to interact with the text.

Part II: Compare and Contrast: Animals and Their Footprints

- Ask students to open their readers. Discuss what they learned about animal footprints from the Nature Cat episode. Ask, "What can an animal's footprints tell you? What kinds of clues help you find out which animal left their footprint?" Answers may include size, number of toes, shape, etc.
- Instruct students to look at the first pair of pictures. Ask them to compare and contrast the animal in the Nature Cat episode with the animal in real life. What are the similarities? What are the differences? Do this for each pair of pictures.
- You may point to an animal and ask, "What do you think this animal's footprints look like?" or use compare/contrast skills to answer questions such as: "Do you think the woodpecker's footprints are bigger or smaller than the skunk's?"

Part III: Increasing Literacy

- Write one of the words on a whiteboard or blackboard. Ask students to point to the word in the Nature Cat reader. Sound out the word using phonetics.
- Repeat for each word. Difficult words, such as opossum, should be repeated multiple times.
- Ask students to describe each animal to instill meaning in the word. Is it a bird? Does it have fur? Does it climb trees or fly?
- Repeat with each animal in the reader.

Part IV: Review

- Instruct students to turn to the last page of the reader. Have them complete the picture match activity on their own.